

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with the **Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland**. It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary Activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.*

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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Sarah Teather [256436]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many families have members currently held in different immigration removal centres.

Reply from Phil Woolas: We do not hold the data requested centrally and it could be provided only by checking and cross-referencing each case file individually, which would be at disproportionate cost.

However, it is the UK Border Agency's policy to keep family members together wherever possible.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090223/text/90223w0032.htm#0902249000038>

Sarah Teather [256437]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many families have one or more of their members currently held in an immigration removal centre.

Reply from Phil Woolas: As at 10 February 2008 there were 44 families detained in the UK Border Agency detention estate.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090223/text/90223w0032.htm#0902249000038>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Sarah Teather [256438]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people died while being held in an immigration removal centre in each of the last five years, broken down by cause of death.

Reply from Phil Woolas: In the last five years there have been a total of seven deaths of detainees held in the UK Border Agency removal centres; there have been no deaths in 2009 to date.

	<i>Number of deaths</i>
2004	4
2005	2
2006	1
2007	0
2008	0

Note: Six deaths were as a result of suicide and one, in 2004, from natural causes.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090223/text/90223w0032.htm#0902249000036>

Sarah Teather [256439]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visitors each immigration removal centre has received in each of the previous 12 months.

Reply from Phil Woolas: All those detained in a UK Border Agency Immigration Removal Centres may receive visits as they wish from family, friends and other associates. They may also receive visits from legal advisers and representatives, from ministers of religion, and from members of the Independent Monitoring Board (1MB) appointed to each centre. Records of the numbers of visitors to each removal centre are not held, either locally at the individual centres or centrally. Home Office policy is not to hold databases that are unnecessary.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090223/text/90223w0032.htm#0902249000039>

Sarah Teather [256440]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) men, (b) women and (c) children are held in each immigration removal centre.

Reply from Phil Woolas: As at 12 February 2009, there were 1,984 men, 295 women and 36 children detained in the UK Border Agency removal centres. The following table provides a breakdown of these figures by centre.

The figures given are based on management information, this information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

<i>Removal centre</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Children</i>
Campsfield House	212	0	0
Colnbrook	299	0	0
Dover	305	0	0
Dungavel House	159	9	1
Harmondsworth	250	0	0
Haslar	152	0	0
Lindholme	121	0	0
Oakington	365	0	0
Tinsley House	110	5	1
Yarl's Wood	11	281	34

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090223/text/90223w0032.htm#0902249000037>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

James Clappison [248439]: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance number registrations have been granted to (a) non-UK EU and (b) non-EU citizens in each quarter since 1 April 2005.

Reply from Tony McNulty: The available information is in the following table:

<i>National insurance number registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the United Kingdom by quarter of registration and EU/Non EU status</i>		
<i>Thousand</i>		
	<i>EU Nationals</i>	<i>Non EU nationals</i>
2005		
April to June	80.93	68.91
July to September	95.43	75.81
October to December	90.53	68.09
2006		
January to March	107.64	75.15
April to June	77.39	56.38
July to September	91.04	60.37
October to December	98.64	65.94
2007		
January to March	153.18	102.44
April to June	99.41	66.63
July to September	121.38	68.46
October to December	108.29	76.67
2008		
January to March	110.83	80.93
April to June	100.68	74.65

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten and displayed in thousands.
2. There are a small number of registrations where citizens' nationalities are unknown, these are not included.
3. Registration date is derived from the date at which a national insurance number is entered on the National Insurance Recording System.
4. When presenting the EU time series, countries which joined the EU during the time series have been included in the EU for the whole of the time series, to facilitate comparisons over time.
5. The EU time series excludes national insurance numbers registered to UK nationals.
6. The figures do not include any national insurance numbers that may have been issued to young foreign nationals under Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs juvenile registration scheme.

Source:
100 per cent. extract from National Insurance Recording System This information is taken from a table published on the DWP website at:
http://83.244.183.180/mgw/final/final/qtr/world/a_stock_r_qtr_c_world_apr08.html

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090223/text/90223w0017.htm#09022327000053>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Chris Huhne [255866]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the (a) administrative cost of appraising entitlement to section 4 support, (b) administrative cost of running an appeals system for those refused support under section 4, (c) the cost of printing, distributing and operating the use of vouchers for asylum seekers and (d) total cost of administering the voucher scheme for asylum seekers was in the last year for which figures are available.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The way that data on the costs of providing section 4 support are recorded does not enable the separate collation of the administrative costs of appraising entitlement to section 4 support, as distinct from other costs such as consultancy, travel, office services and training.

Responsibility for running the Asylum Support Tribunal, which hears appeals by those refused asylum support or for whom asylum support is discontinued, rests with the Ministry of Justice, not the Home Office. Appeals may relate to support under sections 4 or 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

The costs of printing section 4 vouchers and administering and distributing those vouchers is included within the unit costs paid to accommodation providers under the UK Border Agency's target contracts. It is not an additional cost. Consequently it is not possible to provide a figure for the overall costs of administering section 4 vouchers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090223/text/90223w0030.htm#0902249000009>

Chris Huhne [255871]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what additional average unit cost per asylum seeker is paid to accommodation providers to administer the provision of vouchers for those eligible for section 4 support.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The cost for the administration and provision of vouchers is included within the unit cost paid to accommodation providers under the target contracts; it is not an additional cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090223/text/90223w0030.htm#0902249000010>

Chris Huhne [255868]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average weekly cost of accommodating an asylum seeker on (a) section 4 and (b) section 95 support was in the last 12 months.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: During 2007-08 the accommodation element of section 4 support was an average of £97 per person per week and the accommodation element of section 95 support was £96 per person per week.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090223/text/90223w0030.htm#0902249000010>

Chris Grayling [254349]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 280W, on British nationality, under what circumstances a requirement to attend a citizenship ceremony would have national security implications sufficient to give grounds to exempt an applicant from attendance.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Citizenship ceremonies are public events often attended by many people. Exemption may be considered appropriate where, for example, it is deemed necessary to protect the identity of the person becoming British and ensure his or her safety.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090223/text/90223w0030.htm#0902249000012>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Chris Grayling [254494]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what means her Department uses to monitor which points of entry to the UK are used most frequently by illegal immigrants.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The UK Border Agency continually uses risk assessment processes to provide a national picture of the risks posed at points of entry to the UK, the risk assessment process uses up to date national and international intelligence. It also takes into account the numbers of immigrants prevented from gaining entry into the UK illegally through clandestine methods, as well as those arriving without adequate documentation.

These assessments inform the decision on the level of front line resources deployed to points of entry to the UK. It is longstanding policy not to divulge details of operational deployment, as this could provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent controls.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090223/text/90223w0030.htm#0902249000011>

John Randall [257213]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department has had with the Department for International Development on establishing training programmes in developing countries to enable asylum claimants from those countries to be returned safely.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Regular discussions, including about training programmes, take place as part of a programme of work funded by the Returns and Reintegration Fund (which is a cross-government fund supported by the Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the UK Border Agency, and with expertise from the Ministry of Justice. It is administered by the FCO.)

The Fund aims to increase the numbers of failed asylum seekers returned to overseas countries and provide reintegration assistance. One of the Fund's objectives is to ensure that those who return voluntarily have the best possible chance of making their return a successful one.

The Assisted Voluntary Return programme, which is supported by the Fund, provides in-country reintegration assistance including training programmes for returnees.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090225/text/90225w0021.htm#09022629000187>

John Randall [257214]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements she has made with local authorities in response to their representations about a shortfall in their funding for dealing with asylum seekers in the years before the 2006-07 financial year.

Reply from Phil Woolas: All claims from authorities for support for adults and families and UASCs have now been agreed and paid in with the exception of two London authorities, where the agency has recently made a final settlement offer following discussions with the authorities.

UKBA has paid all standard grant payments for UASC for the financial years up to and including 2007-08. UKBA has also agreed and paid all UASC special circumstances claims up to and including 2007-08.

DCSF and UKBA reached agreement with the Local Government Association and London Councils on the settlement of claims for leaving care expenditure up to and including 2007-08. Payments have been made to individual local authorities covered by the agreement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090223/text/90223w0030.htm#0902249000009>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Nicholas Soames [256883]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether time spent in the UK by a foreign national on a student visa counts towards the qualifying period for UK citizenship.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The qualifying period of residence for naturalisation as a British citizen is five years (or three if married to a British citizen). Currently time spent in the UK on a student visa will count towards this qualifying period.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090223/text/90223w0030.htm#0902249000013>

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer [HL1363]: To ask Her Majesty's Government in respect of which countries, or regions of countries, they do not carry out forced removals of refused asylum seekers, because of conflict or violence which makes it unsafe for them to be returned at the current time.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: We do not accept that there is currently any country in the world where it is unsafe for returns to take place on a blanket basis because of conflict or generalised violence. Instead, all cases are considered on their individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the refugee convention and the European Convention on Human Rights. Those identified by the decision-making process and the independent appeals process not to be in need of international protection are expected to leave the UK voluntarily. Failed asylum seekers can and do voluntarily return to all countries of the world. Those who do not leave voluntarily may have their return enforced.

We announced in September 2006 that we would be halting enforced returns to Zimbabwe and we are not currently enforcing the return of Zimbabwean nationals. The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal recently found that there is no barrier to us re-starting enforced returns for failed asylum seekers to Zimbabwe. Since 2006 hundreds of Zimbabweans have voluntarily returned home. Those found not to be in need of protection and who have not left the UK voluntarily can expect to be returned.

Enforced returns of non-Arab Darfuris to Khartoum are currently suspended pending the outcome of an upcoming country guidance case expected to be heard in the summer.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90223w0002.htm#0902235000790>

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer [HL1366]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the cost of running the voucher scheme including (a) the administrative cost of appraising entitlement to Section 4 support; (b) the administrative cost of running an appeals system for those refused support under Section 4; and (c) the cost of printing, distributing and facilitating the use of vouchers around the country.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The way that data on the costs of providing section four support are recorded does not enable the separate collation of the administrative costs of appraising entitlement to Section 4 support, as distinct from other costs such as consultancy, travel, office services and training.

Responsibility for running and funding the Asylum Support Tribunal which hears appeals by those refused asylum support or for whom asylum support is discontinued rests with the Ministry of Justice, not the Home Office. Appeals may relate to support under Sections 4 or 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

The costs of printing Section 4 vouchers and administering and distributing those vouchers is included within the unit costs paid to accommodation providers under the UK Border Agency's target contracts. It is not an additional cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90223w0002.htm#0902235000790>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Hanham [HL648]: To ask Her Majesty's Government for how long each illegal immigrant detainee who has expressed a wish to return home has been held in detention centres.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The assisted voluntary return of irregular migrants (AVRIM) programme introduced in November 2004 is available to those who have entered the UK unlawfully or those who have breached their conditions of leave to enter or leave to remain. AVRIM is operated on behalf of the Home Office by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), an independent intergovernmental organisation.

We expedite as quickly as possible the removal of those who are held in detention and who then apply to return under the AVRIM programme. However, individuals may have been detained for some length of time before making an application under AVRIM and are subject to the normal requirement to be in possession of a valid passport or travel document before they can travel.

Currently, seven individuals who have applied under the programme are detained in the agency detention estate while approval for their return is pending. The table below gives details of the first date of detention and the length of detention since the application under AVRIM was received.

Date detained	Date of application under AVRIM	Number of days detained since the date of application
31 August 2008	29 September 2008	113
11 October 2008	20 October 2008	92
19 August 2008	26 November 2008	55
11 September 2008	1 December 2008	50
5 December 2008	6 January 2009	14
25 November 2008	8 January 2009	12
28 November 2005	9 January 2009	11

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90223w0003.htm#0902235000812>

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer [HL1365]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average weekly cost of accommodating an asylum seeker on (a) Section 4 support; and (b) Section 95 support.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: During 2007-08 the accommodation element of Section 4 support was an average of £97 per person per week and accommodation element of Section 95 support was £96 per person per week.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90225w0001.htm#09022592000376>

Greg Hands [254798]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what visa application procedures are in place for visitors from (a) Croatia, (b) Serbia, (c) Montenegro, (d) Macedonia and (e) Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Nationals of Croatia are non-visa nationals and therefore not required to obtain entry clearance before visiting the UK. Nationals of Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina are visa nationals and must apply for entry clearance and be issued with a visa before travelling to the UK for a visit or any other purpose.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090225/text/90225w0022.htm#09022629000193>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Greg Hands [254799]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to change the visa application procedures for visitors from (a) Serbia and (b) Macedonia.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Home Secretary recently announced the outcome of the UK's first global review of its visa regimes. No changes were proposed to the visa requirements for nationals of either Serbia or Macedonia.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090225/text/90225w0022.htm#09022629000193>

Nicholas Soames [257365]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for visas were approved under the (a) International Graduates Scheme, (b) Science and Engineering Graduates Scheme and (c) Working in Scotland Scheme (Fresh Talent) in 2008; and how many dependants were included in such visas in each category.

Reply from Phil Woolas [holding answer 23 February 2009]: The number of visas issued in 2008 to participants in these schemes is shown in the following table. We cannot state how many visas were issued to dependents of those who have entered in these specific employment categories. This is because they are admitted under the same provision in the immigration rules as dependents of those entering in other employment categories, and separate records are therefore not kept.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090225/text/90225w0022.htm#09022629000193>

Lady Hermon [258252]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU nationals from each other EU member state have been refused entry into the UK on the grounds that their presence would threaten public safety in each of the last five years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table shows the total number of EU and EEA nationals who have been refused admission into the UK since 2004, under regulation 19 of the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006, on the grounds that their presence would threaten public policy, public security or public health.

To read the table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090225/text/90225w0022.htm#09022629000194>

Crispin Blunt [255249]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in agreeing arrangements with other countries to protect the human rights of individuals deported from the UK to those countries in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas [holding answer 9 February 2009]: A memorandum of understanding concerning the provision of assurances in respect of persons subject to deportation on grounds of national security was signed with Ethiopia on 12 December 2008.

Copies of the memorandum of understanding, and the associated side letters, have been placed in the Library of both Houses and on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090226/text/90226w0018.htm#09022660000006>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Damian Green [254552]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Answer of 16 October 2008, Official Report, column 1435W, on mobile detention centres; what the (a) cost and (b) outcomes of the Northampton pilot have been; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The aim of the mobile detention pilot was to test a vehicle with both detention and detainee transport capabilities in a range of operational scenarios to assess how it complements the existing fleet of vehicles. The pilot ran in the East Midlands between 29 September and 31 October 2008.

The Mobile Detention Facility provides UKBA officers with a secure 'field' location in which to interview suspected immigration offenders, detain them for a short period of time and then transport them as appropriate to their next destination, for example, to an Immigration Reception Centre or Immigration Removals Centre, without relying on the availability of police resources or the deployment of UKBA escorting contractors to do this.

During the five week pilot, 22 foreign nationals were encountered of which 14 were interviewed further as suspected immigration offenders of which six were subsequently identified as such and transported to an Immigration Removals Centre. These individuals were processed more quickly using the Mobile Detention Facility capabilities than would otherwise have been the case.

In addition to this direct benefit, the provision of UKBA staff in the liveried vehicle at remote locations allowed for direct interaction with lorry drivers and members of the public to promote the work of UKBA, raise awareness about deterring so called 'lorry drops' and provide a conduit for the collation of additional intelligence to help secure the UK border.

The cost of this pilot was from within existing resources and is commercial in confidence in light of the contractual Non-Disclosure Agreement in place with the vehicle's provider.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090226/text/90226w0018.htm#09022660000008>

John McDonnell [258268]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) adult females, (b) adult males and (c) children were detained in an immigration removal centre in each year since 2000.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The requested information is not available; the Home Office has however published the number of adults and children recorded as leaving detention in the UK solely under Immigration Act powers between January 2005 and September 2006. Information outside this time period is not available.

National Statistics on how many females, males and children are detained on a quarterly snapshot basis is available in table 10 of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom publication at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immig408.pdf> and from the Library of the House.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090226/text/90226w0018.htm#09022660000009>

Lord Hylton [HL1179]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the budgeted cost of immigration and asylum detention in (a) 2008-09; and (b) 2009-10.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The UK Border Agency's budgeted direct cost of detention, excluding any non-cash costs, for 2008-09 is £96 million and for 2009-10 is £107.1 million.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90227w0001.htm#09022738000078>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Damer [HL1364]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average length of time that an asylum seeker remains on (a) Border and Immigration Agency Asylum Section 4 support; and (b) Section 95 support.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The way that the UK Border Agency records data on support under Section 95 and Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 does not enable the collation of the average length of time individuals spend on either of these forms of support without an examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90227w0001.htm#09022738000070>

Virendra Sharma [255431]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to reduce levels of trafficking of women for sexual exploitation.

Reply from Alan Campbell: We continue to make good progress towards the 85 action points contained in our Action Plan to combat trafficking and we shall publish the annual update to this plan later in the year.

On 17 December 2008, the UK ratified Council of Europe convention on trafficking in human beings. This represents a major milestone in the fight against human trafficking.

We have introduced proposed legislative changes under the Policing and Crime Bill to make it an offence to purchase sex from a woman controlled for gain or who has been trafficked as part of our strategy to reduce demand for trafficked women. In addition to this, the Serious Organised Crime Agency has programmes of activity to combat organised immigration crime including human trafficking focusing on source and transit countries and trafficking into and within the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090223/text/90223w0034.htm#0902249000049>

Press Releases

Representatives of overseas newspapers, news agencies and broadcasting organisations

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/repsofoverseasmedia>

Migrant workers face tougher test to work in the United Kingdom

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/migrantworkerstoughertest>

Proposed fee levels for visas and sponsor licences in 2009/10

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/sponsorfees>

Migration statistics to, from, and within Scotland

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/migration/index.html>

Detention centres for asylum seekers "intolerable", say MEPs

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/022-49473-047-02-08-902-20090213STO49387-2009-16-02-2009/default_en.htm

Setting up of European Asylum Support Office proposed by the Commission

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/275&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **New publications**

Safeguarding Children in Scotland who may have been Trafficked: Guidance for Professionals

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/261528/0078243.pdf>

Safeguarding Children in Scotland who may have been Trafficked: Scottish Government Response to the Consultation Analysis

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/261550/0078245.pdf>

Safeguarding Children in Scotland who may have been Trafficked: Analysis of Responses

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/261545/0078244.pdf>

Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immig408.pdf>

UKBA: 10-point delivery plan

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/10pointdeliveryplan>

EESC plenary session debates common asylum and immigration policy with Commissioner Barrot

<http://eesc.europa.eu/activities/press/cp/docs/2009/communique-presse-eesc-023-2009-en.doc>

Asylum support office in the legislative pipeline

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showFocus.aspx?id=1&focusId=351&lang=en>

What price does a refugee pay to reach Europe?

http://www.ecre.org/files/ECRE_Access_Case_Studies_Feb_09.pdf

Refugee and Asylum Seeking Women Affected by Rape or Sexual Violence: a Literature Review

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/Resources/Refugee%20Council/downloads/researchreports/RC%20VWP-report-web.pdf>

The Vulnerable Women's Project Good Practice Guide: Assisting Refugee and Asylum Seeking Women affected by Rape or Sexual Violence

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/Resources/Refugee%20Council/downloads/researchreports/RC%20Vulnerable%20Women%20GPG%20%20v2b.pdf>

Measuring Migration's Development Impacts: Preliminary evidence from Jamaica

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=%2Fecomm%2Ffiles%2FDev+on+the+Move+Jamaica%2Epdf>

The Economic Impacts of Migration on the UK Labour Market

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=%2Fecomm%2Ffiles%2FLabour+market+impacts%2Epdf>

News

Hiring of foreign workers legal, says inquiry

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2489690.0.Hiring_of_foreign_workers_legal_says_inquiry.php

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Children's chance to Polish up on mother tongue

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/02/18/newsstory12656930t0.asp>

'Strawberry orphans' driven to despair by their migrant mothers

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/39Strawberry-orphans39-driven-to-despair.5004339.jp>

Immigrant workers to face crackdown

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/politics/labour/4741610/Immigrant-workers-to-face-crackdown.html>

UK Poles return home

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/poland/4742214/UK-Poles-return-home.html>

Scots anger at UK Government plan to halve migrant workers

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2491009.0.Scots_anger_at_UK_Gove_rnment_plan_to_halve_migrant_workers.php

Recession sparks fall in immigration

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2491504.0.Recession_sparks_fall_in_i mmigration.php

Number of migrants coming to UK falls in downturn

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Number-of-migrants-coming-to.5012402.jp>

Polish is most-spoken foreign language in Scottish schools

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/02/25/polish-is-most-spoken-foreign-language-in-scottish-schools-86908-21150975/>

Number of languages spoken in Capital's schools rises to 90

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Number-of-languages-spoken-in.5013137.jp>

Short term migration becoming the new norm, says ippr

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/pressreleases/?id=3413>

ippr reaction to today's migration figures

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/pressreleases/?id=3414>

'Children left alone' in refugee centre

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/ireland/article5822622.ece>

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Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Jim Cunningham [257705]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government has taken to improve community relations between diverse populations.

Reply from Sadiq. Khan: In 2007 we announced a renewed commitment to community cohesion with a £50 million investment over three years and a new public service agreement to build cohesive, active and empowered communities. We continue to support local authorities in delivering improvements in cohesion by providing a framework of guidance and targeted local support.

In addition in July 2008 we published the Inter Faith framework which aims to facilitate inter faith dialogue, thus building understanding and celebrating the values held in common by the different faith communities, such as integrity in public life, care, compassion and respect. The framework, which is supported by a funding commitment of over £7.5 million, is also intended to increase the level of collaborative social action involving different faith communities and wider civil society, so that people work together to bring about positive and concrete change within their local communities. Finally, it aims to maintain and further develop good relations between faith communities and wider civil society.

This work will also make a positive contribution to work we are undertaking to deliver the Meaningful Interaction strand of PSA21 (Cohesive Engaged Empowered Communities) which aim to encourage meaningful interaction between people from different backgrounds.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090223/text/90223w0022.htm#09022327000092>

News

Muslim children are more likely to feel alienated than radicalised

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/georgepitcher/4734200/Muslim-children-are-more-likely-to-feel-alienated-than-radicalised.html>

We must stop Muslim schools teaching that integration is a sin

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/personal-view/4700709/We-must-stop-Muslim-schools-teaching-that-integration-is-a-sin.html>

Chinese culture unit for Glasgow

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/education/display.var.2491288.0.Chinese_culture_unit_for_Glasgow.php

British values 'must be defended'

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7909258.stm

Call for 'common sense' on religion

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2491812.0.Call_for_common_sense_on_religion.php

Unacceptable beliefs 'must be challenged'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Unacceptable-beliefs-39must-be-challenged39.5017321.jp>

Race Relations

News (continued)

Prince of Wales calls for 'bridges' to be built between faiths

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/4837248/Prince-of-Wales-calls-for-bridges-to-be-built-between-faiths.html>

79 per cent of Muslims say Christianity should have strong role in Britain

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/religion/4799345/79--per-cent-of-Muslims-say-Christianity-should-have-strong-role-in-Britain.html>

When good people do too little

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/libertycentral/2009/feb/28/convention-modern-liberty-muslim>

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Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Lord Laird [HL1436]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how their equality policies are reflected in their foreign policies.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: Our objective is for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to be a world leader in addressing discrimination, promoting equality and harnessing differences as an employer, service provider and principal deliverer of UK foreign policy. There are a number of ways in which we do this.

As an employer, we aim to recruit people from different backgrounds, in order to make better policy. We also promote and use equality impact tools to ensure major policies and initiatives do not have a disproportionately negative impact on any of our staff.

As a service provider, we aim to ensure that diverse groups and their needs are catered for in contingency planning and ensure that our partners subscribe to the same expectations of behaviour as we do.

Finally, as a developer and deliverer of UK foreign policy goals, we work to promote anti-discrimination measures in other countries through promoting implementation of international conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We also provide financial and technical support for programmes that target underrepresented or marginalised groups both through our human rights strategic programme fund, as well as other wider UK initiatives such as Chevening scholarships. We also consult regularly diverse stakeholders when formulating policies.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90224w0001.htm#09022481001040>

New publication

European law and equality: An introduction

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/FS38%20-%20European%20law%20and%20equality.pdf>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

David Amess [256730]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government is taking to protect the Jewish community from anti-Semitic attacks; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Sadiq Khan: Following the dramatic rise in anti-Semitic attacks recorded since the onset of the conflict in Gaza, the Secretary of State and I met with representatives from Jewish organisations to provide reassurance that we are taking the action necessary to tackle the recent upsurge in anti-Semitism. The Government will continue to engage with relevant agencies including the Community Security Trust to ensure that the Jewish community is fully protected from the scourge of anti-Semitism.

The 'All-Party Inquiry into Antisemitism: Government Response One year on Progress Report' published in May 2008 set out the Government's current programme of work to combat anti-Semitism. On 11 February, I attended a ministerial seminar hosted by my hon. Friend the Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism to discuss the Government's strategy towards tackling anti-Semitism on the internet—this was one of the key commitments set out in the progress report.

The UK is also taking an international lead in tackling anti-Semitism and hosted a landmark conference in February which brought together MPs and experts from across the globe to tackle anti-Semitism.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090223/text/90223w0022.htm#09022327000090>

David Amess [256820]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps the Government is taking to protect Jewish schoolchildren from anti-Semitic attacks by other schoolchildren; and if he will make a statement; (2) [256819] what assessment he has made of the incidence of (a) bullying and (b) intimidation of Jewish students in schools since December 2008; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Schools are under a legal duty to promote race equality and it is compulsory for schools to have measures in place to prevent and tackle all forms of bullying, whatever the motivation. In March 2006 we published specialist guidance on bullying around race, religion and culture which focused on preventing and tackling racist and religious bullying in schools and included specific material on bullying related to anti-Semitism. We are funding the Anti-Bullying Alliance and national strategies to ensure the guidance is effectively embedded in local authorities and schools, and are monitoring the situation closely.

We have also published a toolkit to help schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism. The toolkit includes advice on how to protect pupils from violent extremism, manage risks and respond to incidents locally, nationally or internationally that might have an impact on the school community.

We do not collect data on bullying or incidents of intimidation centrally although we are aware that Jewish pupils can be particularly vulnerable to bullying. We intend to introduce a new statutory duty on schools to record all incidents of bullying between pupils later this year, and will specifically consult on whether schools should be obliged to record racist incidents.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090225/text/90225w0009.htm#09022629000094>

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

David Amess [259146]: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1098W, on higher education: anti-Semitism, when he expects to set up the dedicated sub-group to the Cross Government Working Group against anti-Semitism; who the members of the sub-group will be; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from David Lammy: The Department is currently in the process of establishing this group and inviting attendees to the first meeting. At this first meeting the group will agree its continuing membership and terms of reference. We see this group as playing an important role in helping to tackle anti-Semitism in higher education.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090226/text/90226w0026.htm#09022667000027>

Mark Durkan [248689]: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what policies and practices are in place to counter sectarianism and racism in the armed forces.

Reply from Bob Ainsworth: The armed forces aim to create a working environment free from harassment, intimidation and unlawful discrimination in which everyone is not only valued and respected, but encouraged to realise their full potential, regardless of race, ethnic origin, religion, gender, social background or sexual orientation. All complaints of discrimination or harassment are taken seriously, investigated thoroughly, and, when proven, dealt with robustly.

Education is central to the drive to promote awareness of diversity and equality and to eliminate unacceptable behaviour. Diversity and equality training is undertaken at the Joint Equality and Diversity Training Centre and widely across all three services. Other measures include: confidential advice and support helplines; trained equality and diversity advisers in every unit; guidance, videos and briefings on diversity issues, harassment, bullying and complaints.

A Service Complaints Commissioner for the Armed Forces took up her appointment on 1 January 2008. The Commissioner has the power to refer allegations of discrimination, harassment, bullying, and dishonest, improper or biased behaviour to the chain of command for action. The role of the Commissioner is to provide scrutiny and assurance that the complaints process is working effectively and that lessons are learned implemented.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090223/text/90223w0005.htm#09022316000024>

John Mann [257933]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the international effectiveness of strategies to counter racism adopted by the United Nations and its agencies.

Reply from Gillian Merron: The Government have not made a formal assessment of the effectiveness of the strategies to counter racism adopted by the UN and its agencies. We do however believe that some of the UN's mechanisms related to combating racism are making a real contribution to that goal. In particular, we attach importance to the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and the work of its Committee. We remain concerned that some other UN processes created to address racism—notably the follow-up mechanisms of the Durban World Conference against Racism—are currently proving less effective.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090224/text/90224w0001.htm#09022524000014>

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Ashok Kumar [253125]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to reduce racial discrimination in the workplace.

Reply from Sadiq Khan: The Department leads on the development and implementation of the cross-Government strategy for race equality and community cohesion Improving Opportunity Strengthening Society. We hope to announce shortly a further report on progress made in implementing the strategy, including in relation to the labour market.

The legislative and practical actions relating to discrimination, including in the workplace, are the responsibility of several Departments including the Government Equalities Office and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Regarding the employment position, the Department for Work and Pensions, whose Minister chairs the Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force, leads on public service agreement 8 (maximising employment opportunity for all) to close the ethnic minority employment rate gap. The labour force survey figures for quarter 4 2008, which were released on Wednesday, show that the gap between the ethnic minority employment rate and the overall British employment rate has narrowed to 12.9 percentage points, compared to 14.1 percentage points a year ago (Q4, 2007).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090223/text/90223w0026.htm#09022327000129>

Dominic Grieve [257637]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents classified as racially-motivated were reported by prisoners in each of the last five years.

Reply from Jack Straw: The following table presents the number of incidents of alleged racism reported by prisoners. This is broken down into those about the behaviour of other prisoners and those concerning service provision or the actions of members of staff. While all reports are investigated few consist of allegations of misconduct by staff and all such matters are subject to disciplinary investigation under the code of conduct and discipline.

'Race Review 2008', recently published by the National Offender Management Service, which is available in the Library of the House, sets out the current assessment of race equality in the Prison Service, including the effectiveness of these systems and plans for work further to improve them.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Prisoner behaviour</i>	<i>Services/actions of staff</i>
2004-05	5,641	2,268	3,373
2005-06	6,912	2,719	4,193
2006-07	7,569	2,993	4,576
2007-08	8,051	2,758	5,293
2008-09 ⁽¹⁾	6,862	2,186	4,676

⁽¹⁾ Figures for year up to 31 December 2008

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090225/text/90225w0017.htm#09022629000161>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued)

Westminster Early Day Motions

John Mann (829) London Declaration on Combating Anti-Semitism – That this House notes the inaugural conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition on Combating Anti-Semitism, the attendance of 125 MPs from 40 different countries and the resulting London Declaration on Combating Anti-Semitism; believes that anti-Semitism is on the rise, at the highest levels since records began in the 1980s; supports the recommendation that every country should have comprehensive hate crime legislation where anti-Semitism is treated equally as a racially or religiously motivated crime, incitement to hate laws and prosecutions of those hosting, unloading or commissioning hate on the internet within their jurisdiction; agrees that more should be done to tackle anti-Semitism on university campuses, ensure better reporting and to secure more convictions for the anti-Semitic hate crimes that take place; calls on all politicians to sign the London Declaration on Combating Anti-Semitism and for the Government working group to consider how Britain can best implement the Declaration; and calls for a Council of Ministers meeting on the issue of anti-Semitism.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=37904&SESSION=899>

John Mann (917) Anti-Semitism on the Internet – That this House notes the vile and anti-Semitic nature of the website www.catholicvoice.co.uk; notes that it is run by a known fascist and seeks to inspire hate against the Jewish community amongst others; understands that according to Nominet's WHOIS service it is based in the United Kingdom through ISP provider Plusnet in contradiction with that organisation's own hosting policies and remains available to be viewed by the world; calls on Plusnet to stop hosting the website content; and calls for the domain name to be revoked and believes that those who are writing, commissioning and uploading vile hate speech should face the full force of the law.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=37996&SESSION=899>

Ministerial Speech

Hazel Blears speech to the Home Office conference: 'Stephen Lawrence Inquiry - 10 Years On'

Tackling Race Inequality: Changing the Terms of Debate

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/raceinequality>

Press Releases

Combating anti-semitism

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=Speech&id=13795696>

London Declaration on Combating Antisemitism

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/londondeclaration>

New publications

London Declaration on Combating Antisemitism

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/londondeclaration>

Racism and Religious Hatred

New publications (continued)

The United Kingdom's Second Report to the Council of Europe under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/minorities/3_FCNDocs/PDF_2nd_SR_UK_en.pdf

The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry 10 Years On

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/StephenLawrenceInquiryReport-2009.pdf>

European Youth Forum Position on the Durban Conference Review

http://cms.horus.be/files/99907/MediaArchive/News_section/Members_Newsletters/090212_YFJ%200059-09%20Position%20on%20the%20Durban%20Conference%20Review.pdf

News

Met discrimination inquiry begins

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/7896251.stm>

Lola Shoneyin: Feeling the pain of racist abuse

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/opinion/Lola-Shoneyin-Feeling-the-pain.4983336.jp>

McColl tagged for race abuse attack on taxi driver

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2490414.0.mccoll_tagged_for_race_a_buse_attack_on_taxi_driver.php

Met is 'no longer racist' - Straw

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7904194.stm>

Black and ethnic minority police 'still treated unfairly'

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2490958.0.Black_and_ethnic_minority_police_still_treated_unfairly.php

Lawrence family marks 10 years

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Lawrence-family-marks-10-years.5004536.jp>

In Macpherson's footsteps: a journey through British racism

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/feb/21/stephen-lawrence-racism-macpherson-report>

Institutional racism: a decade of self-flagellation

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/telegraph-view/4800954/Institutional-racism-a-decade-of-self-flagellation.html>

Police failing us still - Doreen Lawrence

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/feb/21/doreen-lawrence-police-racism>

Met still racist says Lawrence's friend

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/7907407.stm>

70 changes to Sir Paul Stephenson's racism speech

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/politics/lawandorder/4801503/70-changes-to-Sir-Paul-Stephensons-racism-speech.html>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

'Apartheid culture' existed at Met police station, Muslim officer tells tribunal

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2009/feb/25/met-police-racism-allegations>

Britain is the same old exclusion zone

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/feb/23/stephen-lawrence-macpherson-report-police>

Swindon school faces inquiry after brutal 'racist' attack by Asian teenagers

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/4740691/Swindon-school-faces-inquiry-after-brutal-racist-attack-by-Asian-teenagers.html>

Last reunion for war heroes who came home to fight the fascists

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/this-britain/last-reunion-for-war-heroes-who-came-home-to-fight-the-fascists-1628953.html>

Don't play BNP's game, warns peer

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2009/feb/22/bnp-recession-job-losses>

Shock BNP by-election gain in Kent

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/shock-bnp-byelection-gain-in-kent-1627387.html>

Alarm over rise of BNP

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/alarm-over-rise-of-bnp-1628227.html>

Golding: 'I'm not racist, but you have to start looking after your own'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/golding-8216i8217m-not-racist-but-you-have-to-start-looking-after-your-own8217-1628232.html>

Expose the BNP's lies and distortions

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/leading-articles/leading-article-expose-the-bnp8217s-lies-and-distortions-1628188.html>

We must confront these scare tactics

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/derek-wyatt-we-must-confront-these-scare-tactics-1628231.html>

Victory warns of BNP's geographical spread

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/ed-howker-victory-warns-of-bnp8217s-geographical-spread-1628230.html>

White schoolboy in race claim

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/White-schoolboy-in-race-claim.5007948.jp>

Teens racially abused and threatened

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Teens-racially-abused-and-threatened.5005506.jp>

Giving evidence against racist killer 'almost wrecked life of witness'

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Giving-evidence-against-racist-killer.5008982.jp>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

More minorities scanned for ID

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7913073.stm>

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Other Holyrood

Debate

Community Policing

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor0225-02.htm#Col15144>

New publication

Pupils in Scotland 2008

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/261834/0078331.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Debate

Human Rights: Religious Belief

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90224-0011.htm#09022472000227>

Parliamentary Questions

Baroness Warsi [HL1352]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what religions and faiths are recognised by the British Armed Forces.

Reply from Baroness Taylor of Bolton: The Armed Forces encourage people from all faiths to practise their religious observances as far as operational and health and safety considerations allow. While religion and belief is treated as a private matter, the services place a great deal of importance on the spiritual development of their personnel. Commissioned Armed Forces chaplains are drawn from the main Christian denominations practised in the UK. The first MoD civilian chaplains to the Armed Forces from the Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh faith communities were appointed in October 2005. The services have had an honorary officiating chaplain from the Jewish faith under long-standing arrangements, and action is underway to recruit a Jewish civilian chaplain.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90223w0002.htm#0902235000788>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Warsi [HL1355]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many places of religious worship (a) are currently certified under the Places of Worship Registration Act 1855, broken down by faith denomination, and (b) were certified in each of the past five years, broken down by faith denomination.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The Places of Worship Registration Act 1855 provides for places of meeting for religious worship to be certified to the Registrar General. Under this Act the Registrar General records all places of meeting for religious worship certified to him. There are currently 29,774 places of meeting for religious worship certified under the Act. These are broken down by denomination as follows:

Roman Catholic	3,663
Methodist	7,151
Congregationalist	1,357
Baptist	3,277
United Reformed	1,638
Calvinistic Methodist	1,147
Brethren	945

Salvation Army	896
Unitarian	175
Society of Friends	367
Jehovah's Witness	927
Other Christian bodies	6237
Jews	370
Muslim	837

“Other Christian bodies” includes those who describe themselves as Christian but do not designate themselves further. Examples of “other” include Assemblies of God, Latter Day Saints, Seventh Day Adventist, Greek Orthodox and Pentecostal. During the past five years the following places of meeting for religious worship have been certified by denomination:

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90225w0002.htm#09022592000393> **and**
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90225w0003.htm>

Baroness Warsi [HL1356]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many places of religious worship are registered for marriages under the Marriage Act 1949, broken down by faith and denomination.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: There are currently 24,883 places of meeting for religious worship which have been registered by the Registrar General for the solemnisation of marriages under Section 41 of the Marriage Act 1949. This number is broken down by denomination as follows:

Roman Catholic	3291
Methodist	6265
Congregationalist	1240
Baptist	3060
United Reformed Church	1566
Calvinistic Methodist	1052
Brethren	737

Salvation Army	721
Unitarian	159
Jehovah's Witnesses	832
Other Christian bodies	4348
Muslim	186
Sikh	163
Other	1263

“Other Christian bodies” includes those who describe themselves as Christian but do not designate themselves further. Examples of “Other” include Assemblies of God, Latter Day Saints, Seventh Day Adventist, Greek Orthodox and Pentecostal. The Registrar General has also registered 123 naval, military or air force chapels for the solemnisation of marriages, otherwise than according to the rites of the Church of England, under Section 70 of the Marriage Act 1949. No denomination is stated with these registrations.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90223w0004.htm#0902235000826>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Warsi [HL1158]: To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Hajj Advisory Group was established.

[HL1159] To ask Her Majesty's Government which Muslim organisations were consulted when they established the Hajj Advisory Group.

[HL1160] To ask Her Majesty's Government who are the current members of the Hajj Advisory Group; how they are chosen; and what criteria are used for selecting members.

[HL1161] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a charter or constitution was agreed upon the establishment of the Hajj Advisory Group; and, if so, whether they will place a copy in the Library of the House.

[HL1162] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they have provided to the Hajj Advisory Group and the British Hajj Delegation in each of the past five years.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown: The Hajj Advisory Group (HAG) was established in July 2001 and abolished in 2006.

The Hajj Advisory Group charter contained the criteria for appointment of members to the group. This was based on the particular skills and contributions an individual could bring to the group in terms of professional experience in relative fields (eg fund raising, medical, welfare, administration and communication) and their work within established communities.

Members from various Muslim organisations were appointed to the HAG. The composition of the group reflected the diversity of traditions within the Muslim community. Our records do not hold the details of which organisations were consulted when the HAG was established. However, they show a variety of Muslim organisations were consulted reflecting the diversity and geographic locations of the Muslim community in the UK.

The permanent members of the HAG were drawn from the following organisations: Islamic Cultural Centre; Union of Muslim Organisations; Muslim Council of Britain; Muslim Association of Britain; World Federation of Khoji Shia Ithna-Asheri Muslim Community; Association of British Hujjaj; Muslim College; and Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The charter established four working groups as follows: Fund Raising; Publicity; Strategic Planning; and Medical and Social.

The primary aim was to act as a fund-raising body to finance the important work of the British Hajj Delegation (BHD) from voluntary contributions by members of British Muslim communities. By 2004 it was clear that the HAG was unable to raise these funds, necessitating further investment from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to ensure the maintenance of exceptional medical support to British pilgrims, in addition to the FCO provision of core consular support to this event.

In 2004 and 2005, the FCO provided a grant of £20,000 to the HAG. The grant was administered by the group's secretariat based at the Islamic Cultural Centre in London. The secretariat received £12,000 to cover its administrative costs. Funding was withdrawn in 2006 when the group was abolished.

In the past five years the FCO has provided the BHD with £40,000 in 2004, £60,000 in 2005, £70,000 in 2006, £80,000 in 2007 and £90,000 in 2008.

Logistical and administrative support is provided for the BHD from FCO administrative resources (eg organising meetings, circulating documents, answering letters from members of the public etc).

The FCO currently funds a full-time Hajj desk officer to support arrangements for the BHD.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90224w0002.htm#09022481001048>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Caroline Spelman [257552]: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what (a) research and (b) other work the Equality and Human Rights Commission has undertaken in relation to Travellers in the last 12 months.

Reply from Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission has undertaken the following:

(a) Research

(i) A review of the inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities.

(ii) An assessment of local housing authorities' progress in meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities in England.

Both pieces of research will be published in March 2009.

(b) Stakeholder Engagement

(i) The Commission's Policy Position Statement will be issued in March 2009 alongside the research and best practice case studies.

(ii) The Commission intervened as a third party in the case between Basildon council and the Dale Farm Gypsy and Traveller community. In the Commission's view the local authority failed to undertake an equality impact assessment to establish any disproportionate impact, for example, on the mental health of children that might arise from forced eviction. In light of the decision by the court of appeal which ruled in favour of Basildon council, the Commission has met with senior officers from the council to ensure that they are aware of their legal obligations and to explore ways forward that would meet the interests of all concerned.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090226/text/90226w0032.htm#09022671000040>

Ministerial Speech

Sadiq Khan: Opening of the new London Muslim Centre Library

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/muslimcentrelibrary>

News

Minorities 'to get Government help'

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Minorities-39to-get-Government-help39.5026962.jp>

We will shield minorities from the recession, vows minister

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/we-will-shield-minorities-from-the-recession-vows-minister-1634772.html>

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New Publications

Survey of Mosques in England and Wales

<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/Library/tcc/pdfs/fscumosque.pdf>

Working with the United Nations Human Rights Programme: A Handbook for Civil Society

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/NgoHandbook/ngohandbook.pdf>

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Other News

Politicians 'ignoring' polygamy

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7900779.stm>

Muslim peer claims politicians are scared of discussing polygamy

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/politics/4734077/Muslim-peer-claims-politicians-are-scared-of-discussing-polygamy.html>

Polygamy: Muslim peer says issue has been avoided because of 'cultural sensitivity'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/religion/4733171/Polygamy-Muslim-peer-says-issue-has-been-avoided-because-of-cultural-sensitivity.html>

Muslim Tory peer tells government to get tough on polygamy in UK

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2009/feb/20/polygamy>

Charity Commission publishes first detailed mosque survey

<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/news/fscumosque.asp>

Councillors veto mosque plans

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/02/26/newsstory12695839t0.asp>

Travellers' name appeal passed

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/02/26/newsstory12695862t0.asp>

A new OHCHR handbook for civil society is now available

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/NewCivilSocietyHandbook.aspx>

Country mobilising for Scottish-Islamic Investment

<http://scottishislamic.org/index.php?go=news&id=314>

Etisal '09: Scottish-Islamic Investment Expo

<http://www.scottishislamic.org/index.php?go=events&id=30>

Sun pays £30,000 damages to Muslim bus driver accused of fanaticism

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2009/feb/26/sun-pays-damages-to-muslim-bus-driver>

Farmers aim for halal meat market

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/west_midlands/7906109.stm

Regulator removes ceased charities

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=5dfa7c54-9b83-442a-94c5-f730fc2c3c42>

Ethnic minority pupils race ahead of poor white classmates in schools

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/4884880/Ethnic-minority-pupils-race-ahead-of-poor-white-classmates-in-schools.html>

The school where white pupils are in the minority

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/4884925/The-school-where-white-pupils-are-in-the-minority.html>

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Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

**** Arbitration Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/19-Arbitration/index.htm>

Scottish Parliament Information Centre Briefing

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research/briefings-09/SB09-14.pdf>

Education (Additional Support for Learning) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/16-EdAddSup/index.htm>

Health Boards (Membership and Elections) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/13-HealthBoards/index.htm>

Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/09-AggPrej/index.htm>

Scottish Local Government (Elections) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/21-SLGelections/index.htm>

Sexual Offences Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/11-sexualOffences/index.htm>

Bills in Progress Westminster

**** Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/borderscitizenshipandimmigration.html>

Select Committee on the Constitution: Report on Part 1 of the Bill

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldselect/ldconst/41/9780104014424.pdf>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldbills/015/amend/ml015-i.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldbills/015/amend/su015-la.htm>

House of Lords Committee consideration

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90225-0002.htm#09022571000369>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90225-0013.htm#09022511400058>

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Consultations (closing date) ** New or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Consultation on the legislative framework for the regulation of alternative finance investment bonds (sukuk) (4 March 2009)

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/consult_sukuk101208.pdf

End of Life Choices Bill (9 March 2009)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/MembersBills/pdfs/EndOfLifeChoicesConsultation.pdf>

**** Scottish Gypsy Traveller (Discrimination) Bill** (21 March 2009)

<http://enf.org.uk/blog/?p=762>

**** Inquiry into Race in the Construction Industry** (24 March 2009)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/policyresearch/usinglegalpowers/pages/raceandconstructionfi.aspx>

Forced Marriage: A Civil Remedy? (28 March 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/248674/0071298.pdf>

Regulations to implement the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Act 2008

(30 March 2009)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_092465?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=180685&Rendition=Web

Scottish Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan (31 March 2009)

http://scottishhumanrights.com/documents/SHRC_StrategicPlan.pdf

**** Call for submissions of practices and initiatives in education that aim to combat intolerance against Muslims** (15 May 2009)

<http://tandis.odhr.pl/index.php?p=edu,mus,map>

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Funding Opportunities

**** closes this week!**

European Integration Fund (closing date 6 March 2009)

The European Integration Fund is aimed at legally newly arrived migrants (within the last five years) who are not asylum seekers or refugees, European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) nationals and who have not come to the United Kingdom under visa categories such as students. It can fund local authority, adult, further education and community colleges wishing to offer, or expand capacity, for English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses, that are intended to help legal migrants to become fully functional in United Kingdom society; innovative projects that support the efforts made by the United Kingdom in enabling third country nationals of different social, cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds to fulfil the conditions for permanent residence in the United Kingdom; and work to evaluate the effectiveness of existing and future programmes in bringing about effective integration.

Funding may be up to a maximum of three years and successful bids must also be able to demonstrate that matched funding, usually half is secured before funding will be released. For more information see

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/europeanintegrationfund>

Funding Opportunities (continued)

**** Community Chest** (closing date 31 March 2009)

Small grant programme providing grants of up to £1,000 and free training to help small community groups in Scotland sustain and develop their activities. For information see <http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/grant-schemes/Comm>

**** Call for proposals: Fundamental rights and citizenship** (closing date 22 April 2009)

The general objectives of the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme are the following:

- a. to promote the development of a European society based on respect for fundamental rights as recognised in Article 6(2) of the Treaty on European Union, including rights derived from citizenship of the Union;
- b. to strengthen civil society and to encourage an open, transparent and regular dialogue with it in respect of fundamental rights;
- c. to fight against racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism and to promote better interfaith and intercultural understanding and improved tolerance throughout the European Union;
- d. to improve contacts, exchange of information and networking between legal, judicial and administrative authorities and the legal professions, including by way of support to judicial training, with the aim of better mutual understanding among such authorities and professionals.

For more information see <http://www.enar-eu.org/Page.asp?docid=20468&langue=EN>

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Events/Conferences/Training

**** New or updated this week**

Discrimination Law Update

9 March 2009 in Glasgow (10.00 – 1.00)

Legal Services Agency seminar to provide an update on key developments in discrimination law within the past 12 months. For information contact 0141 353 3354 or see http://www.lsa.org.uk/discriminationlawupdate_1.aspx

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Receipts and Payments Accounting

11 March 2009 in Nairn (10.30 – 12.30)

12 March 2009 in Wick (10.30 – 12.30)

Video conference about the preparation of charity accounts in the receipts and payments format. For information contact Derek Galbraith 01382 346838 / communications@oscr.org.uk

or see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=b834981a-ff9c-46ab-98f4-61a8429be739>

Capturing the Gains of the Public Sector Duties in Scotland

13 March 2009 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 3.00)

Equalities and Human Rights Commission conference about their 'Capturing the Gains' Project which demonstrates how public bodies have improved their policies and services by taking the Public Sector Duties into account. For information contact scotlandcommunication@equalityhumanrights.com or see

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/forbusinessesandorganisation/events/Pages/CapturingtheGainsofthePublicSectorDutiesinScotland.aspx>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** From conflict to co-operation**

15 March 2009 in Edinburgh (1.30 – 6.30)

Scottish Interfaith Council youth conference. For information contact Frances Hume 0141 420 6982 / fhume@scottishinterfaithcouncil.org

Trustee Duties / Consents & Notifications

17 March 2009 in Nairn (10.30 – 12.30)

19 March 2009 in Wick (2.00 – 4.00)

Office of the Scottish charity Regulator video conference about charity trustee duties, including when to seek consent from, or notify, OSCR of proposed changes to a charity. For information contact Derek Galbraith 01382 346838 / communications@oscr.org.uk or see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=b834981a-ff9c-46ab-98f4-61a8429be739>

Equality and Human Rights Commission

18 March 2009 in Aberdeen

Opportunities for advice-giving and frontline representatives of voluntary, community, and educational organisations to meet the EHRC Legal Team and find out more about the Commission and how to work with it, and to let the EHRC know what issues are most significant to you and your service users. For information contact James Andrew 0141 228 5917 / David Reilly 0141 228 5967 / roadshow@equalityhumanrights.com

Promoting Equality, Dignity and Respect in the Workplace

25 March 2009 in Glasgow (10.30 – 3.00)

BEMIS / STUC conference to promote a better understanding and deployment of employment rights within the race equality agenda. For information contact Adnan Miyasar 0141 548 8047 / Adnan.miyasar@bemis.org.uk

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

2 April 2009 in Glasgow

9 June 2009 in Glasgow

20 August 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council seminar for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=67>

Equality and Diversity

23 April 2009 in Aberdeen (9.30 – 4.30)

SCVO seminar exploring the myths and facts surrounding the six equality strands - race, gender, disability, religion and belief, sexual orientation and age. For information contact Jane Baillie jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 8019.

Working with interpreters

28 April 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work with non-English speaking service users, including asylum seekers and refugees, who need a comprehensive understanding of some of the key issues of working with interpreters. For information see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=72> or contact SRC 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Introduction to the Needs of Refugee Women

21 May 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting women seeking sanctuary in Scotland. For information contact SRC 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=65>

Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

9 June 2009 in Glasgow

20 August 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to identify the issues and concerns participants have in relation to working with asylum seekers and refugees, provide information on legal, political, economic and historical factors in relation to people seeking asylum, share ideas for developing good practice, and to identify strategies and resources for work with refugees. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=73>

UKBA (formerly NASS) Asylum Support - The Essentials

3 September 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course covering the asylum process and the legal framework, support arrangements available to asylum seekers from the beginning to the end of the asylum process, and entitlements for refugees and unaccompanied or separated asylum-seeking children. For information contact SRC 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=60>

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/home.htm>

Scottish Government <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Home>

Westminster Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.eu.int/parliament/public.do?language=en>

One Scotland Many Cultures <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Scottish Inter Faith Council <http://www.scottishinterfaithcouncil.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/Pages/default.aspx>

Scotland Helpline 0845 604 5510

Useful Links (continued)

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

SCVO <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Home/Home.aspx>

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

Social Economy Scotland <http://www.socialeconomyscotland.info/content/index.asp>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <http://www.oscr.org.uk/Index.stm>

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) <http://www.crbs.org.uk/>

Disclosure Scotland <http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/>

BBC News24 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/default.stm>

BBC Parliament online

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm

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The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charity SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS (the Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland) is the umbrella body for ethnic minority organisations in Scotland. It aims to strengthen the capacity of the ethnic minority voluntary sector; raise the profile and coordinate the voice of this sector; and take a lead on policy issues to ensure that issues of concern are raised with government and other relevant bodies. <http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>